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A reunion of members of the 1930 graduating class of Pascagoula high took place Saturday evening at the Community Activities building. This particular reunion was fulfillment of a class prophecy made by Mrs. Lura Gibbons Carrier of Pascagoula, whose theme at the commencement exercises was "Twenty Years Hence". The affair was in the form of a buffet dinner which was attended by

After an elaborate supper the remainder of the time was spent in dancing or in looking at old pictures of the 30 who were graduated a score of years ago.

Covers were laid for Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Murray; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Allen; Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Colle; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wiesenburg; Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Lyons; Mr. and Mrs. R. B. McIlwain; Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Pelham; H. C. Ezell of Pascagoula and Mrs. Currier, Jackson; Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Ward Jr., Gulfport; Mr.

Mrs. Lura Currier Named President By US Librarians

Mrs. Lura Gibbons Currier, Pascagoula native and director of the Mississippi Library Commission, was this week elevated to the highest position for a public librarian in the United States. She assumed office as president of the American Libraries Association, public libraries division, Friday at the national convention in San Francisco.

The division is composed of more than 7000 US public librarians.

In accepting the office, Mrs. Currier said: "I do not consider this honor as a personal tribute, but as a testament to Mississippi's library program. It is an expression of the confidence which people have in the State of Mississippi."

Historically, the presidency of the division goes to a librarian in one of the United States' principal cities.

This year, however, because of tremendous interest in library development, the nominating committee felt the office should go to someone working directly with the founding of new libraries and the improvement of existing libraries.

Mississippi has become known throughout the world for her development of libraries in rural areas. In the first six months of 1958, new libraries were formed in seven Mississippi towns.



LARA CURRIE, Pascagoula:
"I like the idea of making convicted drunk drivers go to a rehabilitation program and remove their license for a certain period of time."

**O'BRYANT-O'KEEFE
FUNERAL HOME, INC.**
762-4311
11 Telephone Rd., Pascagoula

Lura Gibbons Currier, succumbed to a long illness Sunday, Nov. 20, 1983, at her home in Pascagoula. Visitation will be tonight, Nov. 21, from 5-7 p.m. at O'Bryant-O'Keefe Funeral Home followed by a memorial service in the chapel.

Visitation will also be held Tuesday, Nov. 22, at Baldwin, Lee & Barnes Funeral Home, Robinson Road, Jackson. Interment will follow at Jackson Memorial Gardens, McCluer Road, at 2:30 p.m.

Survivors include a sister, Esther E. Vaughn, Jackson; two brothers, Vaughan E. Gibbons Jr., Pascagoula, and William Dean Gibbons, Houston, Texas; 11 nieces and nephews, and a multitude of friends.

The family requests memorials to the Leavell Woods Methodist Church, Jackson, or the Pascagoula Public Library Building fund in lieu of flowers.

Mrs. Currier led a distinguished career as a professional librarian, serving 12 years as director of Mississippi Library Commission.

system of public library service in Mississippi today.

She later directed the Northwest Pacific Bibliographic Center in Seattle for six years. Her 30 year career ranged through journalist, teacher, librarian, consultant, lecturer, professor, writer and library trustee. She had been actively involved in professional associations at local, state and national levels.

Pascagoula Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Department
Currier Family History

Jackson County, Miss. — Biography

MRS. LURA GIBBONS CURRIER

VERTICAL FILE

has just retired (1977)
Mrs. Lura Gibbons Currier, former Director of the Mississippi Library Commission, is ~~currently working~~ as Director of the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center, housed in the Library of the University of Washington, Seattle.

Mrs. Currier was born in Erie, Kansas and grew up in a migrant construction family whose father was engaged in building roads, dams and bridges under pioneering conditions throughout the South and Middle West. This aspect of her early home life gave her wide experience in travel, schooled her in the attitudes of the different sections of the country, and trained her for a personal and professional adaptability to changing economic, physical and social circumstances which has been her most important asset in developing public library service in some of the unserved areas of the country.

She is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and of the Graduate Library School of the Texas Woman's University at Denton, Texas.

Her working experience includes several years of elementary and secondary teaching in Mississippi and Florida. She has worked in the public libraries of Corpus Christi, Texas, Tom Green County Library at San Angelo, Texas; and the Snohomish County and the Mount Vernon Public Libraries, both in Washington. For five years before her appointment as Director, she was the field representative of the Mississippi Library Commission, the state agency for library development and extension, a position for which she was specifically chosen to set up the multi-county regional library systems recommended by the 1948-49 Schenk survey of Mississippi entitled PEOPLE WITHOUT BOOKS. Mrs. Currier became Director of the Mississippi Library Commission in 1955. She occupied this position through December 1967 at which time she resigned in order to pursue several projects in consultant work with the Washington State Library and to teach in the Summer sessions in the School of Librarianship at the University of Washington.

In October 1970, she was hired to administer the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center in line with the recommendations she had made for its reorganization in her study of that 30 year old cooperative library venture entitled: "Sharing Resources in the Pacific Northwest".

The public relations programs directed by Mrs. Currier in two different public libraries have won John Cotton Dana awards. One of these citations reads in part: "To the library whose librarian will do anything to get people into the public library."

She was the 1959 president of the Public Libraries Division of the American Library Association.

Mrs. Currier is the author of the ALA publication CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS FOR LIBRARIES, a manual still widely used as a guide to the legal considerations of library cooperation.

In retirement she is living in Pascagoula, Miss., where she is serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Pascagoula City Library which is the Administrative Headquarters of the Jackson-George Regional Library System.

Pascagoula City Library

**Pascagoula Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Department
Currier Family History**

Special Note: It may be of interest to Institute participants that this compilation was made ten years ago!

LIBRARY OBSERVATIONS OF LURA GIBBONS CURRIER

Mrs. Currier's philosophy of library service, transformed daily into positive action, is best expressed through these sample quotations from her public speeches, staff notices, statements of policy, and correspondence:

On library service: "The service policy of this agency and the libraries which it develops is simply this: 'If we do not have it, we will get it for you.' Anything less than that is not good enough. You ask, 'How far shall we go in finding the book the reader needs? What is this agency's policy in regard to finding information?' The answer is simple: 'Our policy is this: We go all the way. We do whatever is necessary to find it. If it's available, we get it.' "

On library procedures: "The first -- and last -- consideration shall be that the reader shall get the book he needs when he wants it. That's the only reason for library procedures. When the procedures hinder or delay the person's getting the book, then the procedures must be changed. In any conflict between the rule and the person the rule has to go! In a quarter of a century of library service I have never known a reader to complain that a book given to him was not completely processed but I have seen an endless procession turned away empty handed because 'It isn't cataloged yet; it is in processing; it is a circulation snag; the card is lost', or some other procedural inadequacy that is our fault, not theirs."

On library cooperation: "Cooperation is like heaven; 'everybody talkin' about it ain't goin' there'. But it has to be if the total informational needs of individuals are met. The person who wants and needs information doesn't care what kind of library gives it to him, just so he gets it. We librarians have got to stop worrying about what kind of librarians we are as to structure -- school, public, college, special -- and worry about what kind we are as to performance. We must join our resources in an effective network of information so that all intellectual needs will be met. This demands cooperation -- real, effective, hard, complex, imaginative, and applicable to each of us, not just to the other fellow."

On the larger service unit: "The cozy little do-it-yourself library is to the new informational sciences what the little red school house is to modern education -- tender in its sentimental recollection; helpless before today's demands. Lone library operation belongs to the pastoral era when we each grew our own wool, spun our own thread and wove our own cloth. Libraries, like everything else in a complex civilization, must work together to serve and survive. A generation of people who can get a man through space ought to produce enough imagination to get a book from one town to another, from one county to another, even from one side of the country to another so that the thirst for knowledge may be quenched in whatever intellectual desert it is found. A little Mississippi boy looked at the sad, worn bookshelf of a poor, run-down library and said sadly, 'I've read every book in this library 10 times.' As the person responsible under the law for this unspeakable situation I contend that we must get that little boy 9 other books and 9 other little boys the ones he has read 10 times. If we aren't smart enough in our planning, big enough in our scope, and generous enough in our concepts to accomplish that, they should give these responsibilities to those who are."

On being poor: "We cannot help being poor but we can be clean and efficient. We may be 'too poor to paint', but we do not have to be 'too proud to whitewash'. Our people's needs are the same as others. That we do not have as much money simply means that we have to work harder. Being poor carries with it the terrible and absolute necessity to be efficient to the last paper clip and the last ounce of energy. We cannot afford the luxury of poor procedures, clumsy techniques, broken down equipment, clock watching individuals."

Pascagoula Public Library
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Currier Family History

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP
June 1967

Library and Society
Mrs. Laura Currier

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Partial Bibliography

From time to time students inquire about the professional writings of their instructor. Much of Mrs. Currier's writing has been done on the job in the form of reports, reviews, surveys, proposals, new releases, etc. However, here follows an informal listing of what has been published.

- "Mississippi in Action." Library Journal, February 1952.
- "Library Development - The Human Element." Oklahoma Librarian, July 1954.
- "Cooperation with a Southern Accent." Minnesota Libraries, Sept. 1954.
- "For Sale - Apply Within." Oklahoma Librarian, July 1955.
- "Don't Get a Horse." Wilson Library Bulletin, March 1955.
- "Forty-Eight Trunk Lines." ALA Bulletin, April 1957.
- "Regional Libraries are Not Peculiar." ALA Bulletin, November 1958.
- "The Lengthened Shadow." ALA Bulletin, January 1959.
- "So Little for So Many Wanting So Much." Southeastern Librarian, Fall 1962.
- Subsequently reprinted in Wilson Library Bulletin.
- "The Defense Never Rests." ALA Bulletin, July-August 1966.
- "Contracts and Agreements for Public Library Service." FLD Reporter, no. 6, 1958.
- "Public Libraries and Larger Systems." Wyoming Library Roundup, v. 24, no. 2, June 1969.
- "Professionalism is as Professionalism Does." Ibid.

Surveys:

- "Combined Operation of the Tacoma Public Library and the Pierce County Library." For the Washington State Library, 1968.
- "Public Library Services in the City and County of Spokane." In collaboration with PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SERVICE for Washington State Library, 1968.
- "Partial Survey of Fort Vancouver Regional Library, Vancouver, Washington, in collaboration with Dorothy Doyle. For Washington State Library, 1968.
- "Sharing Resources in the Pacific Northwest; A Study of PNBC and Interlibrary Loan." Olympia, Washington State Library, 1969.
- "Locations for Libraries; Buildings for Books; Places for People - A Physical Facilities Study for Timberland Regional Library." Olympia, Washington, The Library, 1971.

Excerpts from Mississippi Library News

- "40,000 Items of Good News." March 1957.
- "Every Week is Library Week in Mississippi." March 1961.
- "New Library Renovations are Result of Library-Services Act." June 1961.
- "Dare Perffessor." June 1967.
- "Library Buildings After the Fact." In collaboration with W.O. Youngs, of the Seattle Public Library. June 1967.

Special Edition of Mississippi Library News, December 1967. Numerous articles.

Excerpts from: "Proceedings of State Field Consultant Services," ALA, 1956.
Hearing Before Select Subcommittee, House Committee on Education and Labor, U.S. Congress, April 20, 1966.

Jackson County, Miss. - Biography

VERTICAL FILE

More than 40 Mississippians have received Rhodes Scholar

Pascagoula City Library

** Pascagoula High School grad*

John Cecil Rhodes, who made a fortune in diamonds in South Africa, founded the Rhodes Scholarship at the beginning of this century. He died in 1902 and the scholarships first were awarded in 1904.

A total of 75 candidates are chosen each year throughout the world, 32 being selected from the United States, to spend two years abroad studying at Oxford University in England.

Headquarters for the Rhodes Scholarship in the United States is at Pomona College in Claremont, Calif.

There are four primary qualifications for candidacy: Literary and scholastic attainment, moral force of character and instinct to lead, sympathy for and protection of the weak, and fondness for sports.

A Mississippi man was among Rhodes recipients the first year. Ebb James Ford, who attended the University of Mississippi was a Rhodes Scholar in 1904. Subsequently 40 Mississippians earned the Rhodes distinction. The years in which they were selected and the college or university they attended follows:

Richard Beckett, 1906, University of Mississippi.

T.T. McCarley, 1907, University of Mississippi.
Leonard Eugene Farley, 1909, University of Mississippi.

William M. Rogers, 1910, Mississippi A&M.
William Kyle, 1912, University of Mississippi.
Thomas F. Mayo, 1913, University of Mississippi.

William L. Finger, 1915, University of Mississippi.

Bryan England, 1917, University of Mississippi.
Louis Jiggitts, 1918, University of Mississippi.
Frank Mitchell, 1920, Millsaps College.

Walter Hugh Drane Lester, 1921, University of Mississippi.

Mack Buckley Swearingen, 1923, Millsaps College.

E. Wilson Lyon, 1924, University of Mississippi.
Myres McDougal, 1926, University of Mississippi.

Walter Barker Critz Watkins, 1927, Princeton.

Calvin Smith Brown, 1929, University of Mississippi.

William Thomas Jones, 1930, Swarthmore College.

Arthur Butler Dugan, 1932, Princeton.

Rodney Montgomery Baine, 1935, Southwestern University.

Charles Greenleaf Bell, 1935, University of Virginia.

J. Hector Currie, 1937, University of Mississippi.

George W. Rogers Jr., 1948, Yale.

James E. Price Jr., 1949, University of Mississippi. Price currently is Rhodes Scholar secretary for Mississippi.

Walter R. Coppedge, 1952, University of Mississippi.

Hugh Gaston Hall, 1952, Millsaps College.

Jess Brooks Woods Jr., 1955, University of Mississippi.

Robert D. Childres, 1957, University of Mississippi.

John L. Deutsch, 1958, Tulane University.

F. Dean Copeland, 1960, University of Mississippi.

Joseph L. Price, 1962, University of the South.

Robert S. Munford, 1963, Vanderbilt University.

William Frank White, 1965, Harvard.

Thomas Reid Ward Jr., 1968, University of the South.

Paul M. Parish, 1967, University of Mississippi.

Walter Floyd Pratt, 1967, Vanderbilt University.

Charles Garvin, 1973, Harvard.

John C. Dupree, 1975, Vanderbilt University.

John W. McLendon, 1980, United States Air Force Academy.

William Bradford Chism, 1981, Millsaps College.

Marshall Jones Bouldin IV, 1982, University of Mississippi.

Pascagoula native Charles Daniel Goodgame, who is a graduate of Pascagoula High School and the University of Mississippi, applied for and received a Rhodes Scholarship in 1979 while he was living in Miami, Fla.

From The Daily Herald. Biloxi-Gulfport, Miss. Wednesday, Jan. 4, 1984. p. 8-3

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Jackson County, Miss. - Biography

STATE TIMES, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 1957



MRS. LURA GIBBONS CURRIER

(Staff Photo by Sam Green)



THIS WEEK'S SALUTE!

By CAROLYN NEWTON

The State Times today salutes Mrs. Lura Gibbons Currier, director of the Mississippi Library Commission, who this week was given the highest honor which can be bestowed on a public librarian in the United States.

Mrs. Currier was elected vice president and president-elect of the Public Libraries Division, American Library Association.

Mrs. Currier, who has been associated with the Mississippi Library Commission for the past seven years, is an outstanding national figure in the field of libraries. When she learned of the honor given her by librarians throughout 48 states, Mrs. Currier said she not feel her election was a personal tribute, but rather a testament to Mississippi's library program.

It is an expression of the confidence which people have in the state of Mississippi," she said. Although Mrs. Currier said she the "misfortune" to be born in another state, she moved to Mississippi at the age of three months. She claims she is a better Mississippian than many natives because she is a Mississippian by

because of the limitless variety. "Being different can be a virtue as well as a handicap and my mother saw to it that moving from school to school became an asset. It just never occurred to anyone living in the shadow of my mother's influence not to study. There was a certain frenzy about getting education in the family because of our moving. We just had to study harder than anyone else and so we did."

When high school years came along, Mrs. Currier entered Perkinston and continued there through junior college.

As a junior college graduate on her first teaching job, Mrs. Currier first realized the importance of books to the education, recreation and culture of a community.

"I've ever received," she says. Today Mrs. Currier spends much time with young people helping them to find jobs where they can learn more rather than just earn more.

Marriage during the war widened the geographical spread of her travels and enlarged her professional opportunities. She became public relations librarian for a large county library in Washington State. And it was during this time she received the John Cotton Dana award for public relations of a library in a community. The award read in part: "To the librarian who will do anything to get people into a library."

And doing "just about anything" is exactly what Mrs. Currier did to attract people into the library. She recalls the time her father sent a package of okra to her as a result of a long letter home wishing for "good southern cooking".

"I took the okra to the library and displayed it under a sign reading 'Vegetables with a Southern Accent'. A feature story on the local library brought streams of people in to see what okra looked like," she says.

"And some of them," Mrs. Currier adds proudly, "returned to use books."

News about the wonderful progress being made in developing rural library service in Mississippi began to seep through professional literature and Mrs. Currier heard of the soundness of the program and the expert leadership of the Library Commission's director, Mrs. Eunice Eley.

Mrs. Currier returned to Mississippi to visit her family and after a few minutes chat with Mrs. Eley decided to stay.

"That few minutes chat has lasted seven years," says Mrs. Currier. "It took only a few minutes to see that Mississippi's library program was one of vision, imagination, sound philosophy and determination."

Interspersed among her varied experiences, Mrs. Currier recalls her first job—that of a newspaper reporter for a Mississippi county weekly paper. Today she is still interested in writing. She is currently completing a technical book on library contracts and service agreements which will go to press in July.

"It's an odd coincidence that my initials and the Library Commission's are the same," said Lura Currier. "But then Lura and libraries do go steady."

Today the State Times joins the people of Mississippi in saluting Lura Gibbons Currier on her election as vice president, president-elect of the Public Libraries Division of the American Library Association. We are justly proud of her efforts to make books available to everyone in the state and

VERTICAL FILE

Pascagoula City Library

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Mississippi at the age of three months. She claims she is a better Mississippian than many natives because she is a Mississippian by choice. And with librarians as scarce as they are, one can pretty well choose his place of residence. In her life time she has lived in more than half of the states, but staunchly claims Mississippi as home.

As the daughter of a pioneer construction engineer, Mrs. Currier lived a most colorful and interesting life. Her father, Vaughn Gibbons, built many of the first bridges over streams in the South when they replaced hand drawn ferries.

"Education was a sketchy proposition for children of a pioneer construction worker," she says. "I remember the first year I ever spent nine months in one school. It was in the sixth grade and I really felt like I was 'homesteading'."

But Mrs. Currier contends, the children in her family received a better education than most children who stay in the same place.

first realized the importance of books to the education, recreation and culture of a community.

"We had no textbooks in the class," she said. "My children just had to have something to read. I took the cover from a geography book, separated the pages, and gave a different page to each child. They weren't necessarily reading the subject with continuity, but they were reading."

The following year she returned to college to continue her studies. She graduated in 1937 from Mississippi Southern College. And, after two more years of teaching in Marks, where she became seriously interested in library work for the first time, she continued her studies at Texas College for Women, receiving a degree in library science.

Upon completion of college, professors told Mrs. Currier to seek a job where she would receive wise and careful professional guidance. "I consider this advice the best

into a honorary
sion of the American Library Association. We are justly proud of her efforts to make books available to everyone in the state and

bra holding lighted tapers, and on
terspersed with cathedral candles
banked high above the chancel, in
before a background of magnolias
formed the double ring ceremony
The Rev. J. W. T. Silver per
calist.

also accompanied Dewey Lane, vo
rienne Laurence, of Laurel, who
gan music was played by Miss Ma
Baptist Church. A prelude of or
noon, June 6, at the Newhebron
Roy A. Berry, on Thursday after
Fred Berry Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs
Hord, became the bride of Roy Al
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd C
beauty, Miss Marian Jean Hord
NEWHEBRON-In a wedding o
Special to State Times

Marian Jean Hord
In Ceremony

2B ■ November 22, 1983 ■ TUESDAY ■ THE CLARION-LEDGER ●

DEATHS

Mrs. Lura G. Currier

PASCAGOULA — Mrs. Lura Gibbons Currier, formerly of 316 Cooper Road in Jackson, died Sunday at her home. Graveside services are 2:30 p.m. today at Jackson Memorial Gardens with Baldwin, Lee & Barnes Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Visitation is from noon to 2 p.m. today at the funeral home's Southwest Chapel.

A native of Stark, Kan., Mrs. Currier was the director of the Mississippi Library Commission until 1967 when she became director of the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center in Seattle, Wash. Her 30-year career included work as a journalist, teacher, librarian, consultant, lecturer, professor at the University of Washington, writer and library trustee.

She had been actively involved in professional associations at local, state and national levels. She was active in Mississippi Library Association and American Library Association. She received her B.A. degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and the master's degree from North Texas State University.

Mrs. Currier is survived by her brothers, Vaughn E. Gibbons of Pascagoula and William Dean Gibbons of San Antonio, Texas; and sister, Mrs. T.L. Vaughn of Jackson, 11 nieces and nephews.

The family requests memorials to the Leavell Woods Methodist Church in Jackson or the Pascagoula Public Library building fund in lieu of flowers.

Pascagoula Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Department
Currier Family History

2-A—Mississippi Press

Monday, November 21, 1983

Deaths

1983

**O'BRYANT-O'KEEFE
FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

782-4311
4811 Telephone Rd., Pascagoula

CURRIER

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system of public library service in Mississippi today.

She later directed the Northwest Pacific Bibliographic Center in Seattle for six years. Her 30 year career ranged through journalist, teacher, librarian, consultant, lecturer, professor, writer and library trustee. She had been actively involved in professional associations at local, state and national levels.